

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a target within a body of a patient, said method comprising:

irradiating a treatment volume having a known position;
supporting the patient such that the target is adjacent to the treatment volume;

scanning the body to monitor the position of the target;
selectively activating a radiating apparatus in response to the monitored position of the target to irradiate the target when the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume; and

selectively deactivating the radiating apparatus in response to the monitored position of the target when the target is not at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said supporting the patient includes adjusting an upright supporting mechanism supporting the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said supporting the patient further includes adjusting a platform supporting the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said supporting the patient further includes adjusting the position of the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the

treatment volume.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said supporting the patient further includes moving the patient so that the target is located along a line as defined by the radiating apparatus and the treatment volume.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said supporting the patient further includes attenuating the irradiating so that the treatment volume is at least partially coincident with the target.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus and again selectively irradiating the treatment volume in the adjusted position.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus by rotating the patient relative to the target.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus by rotating the radiating apparatus relative to the treatment volume.

10. A method for treating a target within a body of a patient with a proton beam radiating apparatus having a Bragg peak irradiating a treatment volume having a known position, said method comprising:

positioning the patient such that the target to be treated is located near the treatment volume;

scanning the body to determine the position of the target relative to the treatment volume;

activating the proton beam radiating apparatus to irradiate the target when the determined position of the target is at least partially coincident with the known position of the treatment volume; and

deactivating the proton beam radiating apparatus when the determined position of the target is not at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said positioning the patient includes adjusting an upright supporting mechanism supporting the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said supporting the patient further includes adjusting a platform supporting the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said supporting the patient further includes adjusting the position of the patient so that the target is at least partially coincident with the treatment volume.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said supporting the patient further includes moving the patient so that the target is located along a line as defined by the radiating apparatus and the treatment volume.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said supporting the patient further includes attenuating the irradiating so that the treatment volume is at least partially coincident with the target.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus and again irradiating the treatment volume in the adjusted position.

17. The method of claim 10 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus by rotating the patient relative to the target.

18. The method of claim 10 further comprising rotating the patient relative to the radiating apparatus by rotating the radiating apparatus relative to the treatment volume.